

After three additional years at the law firm, David joined the Judiciary Committee in March 2007 and took on an ever-expanding portfolio of issues. Over time, his ability to master questions of law, policy, politics, and House procedure earned him the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. Throughout his tenure, David played a critical role in bipartisan negotiations over legislative topics large and small. He was the lead staff Democratic negotiator for the Judiciary Committee on the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which made major reforms to immigration law regarding the victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children, and the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, which established a program to provide health care to those injured during recovery and cleanup efforts at the September 11 terrorist-attack sites and by reopening the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund to provide compensation for such injured persons.

David's affable demeanor and quick mind have frequently been on display and have earned him many friends on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers of Congress. David's absence will be felt for years to come on matters pertaining to immigration law and policy, but we know that he will continue to work in this area as Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud David's tireless, principled and loyal public service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people and wish his every success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 149TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH AND THE 21ST ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2014*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 149th anniversary of Juneteenth and the 21st annual celebration in Memphis, Tennessee. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced in the town square that all slaves were free. Although this came nearly three years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the newly freed men and women rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations, and thus, the Juneteenth holiday was born.

This year, the Memphis Juneteenth celebration was very different from past celebrations. First, the Board of Directors changed the name of the celebration from the "Juneteenth Freedom & Heritage Festival" to the "Juneteenth Urban Music Festival." Second, the celebration took place in the Robert R. Church Park on Beale Street in Downtown Memphis instead of the historic Douglass Neighborhood, where the celebration has taken place for the past twenty years.

The importance of this change in location to the Robert R. Church Park is especially significant to the celebration of this important day in history. Robert R. Church was born in Memphis on October 26, 1885 and soon became a

prominent civil rights leader in the City of Memphis and in the State of Tennessee. In 1916, he founded the Lincoln League, which helped African Americans in the Memphis area by organizing voter registration drives and paying poll taxes for those who could not afford it. Through the Lincoln League alone, he enabled thousands of African Americans in the Memphis area to exercise their right to vote in local, state and national elections. However, his work did not stop there. In 1917, he chartered the first Tennessee chapter of the NAACP in Memphis. Two years later, his dedication to the organization and its mission was recognized when he was elected to serve on the national board.

Robert R. Church continues to be a prominent and revered political figure in Memphis because of his work to make the processes of government inclusive to all members of society, regardless of race or social class. As such, the Juneteenth celebration this year focused on the same mission: expanding the Juneteenth celebration so that thousands more people may take place in this joyous celebration. This year, the celebration included a variety of musical performances varying from gospel performers to neo soul artists. In addition to these performances, the celebration offered a poetry slam and a showcase featuring majorettes, drummers, cheerleaders, and steppers. By appealing to all members of the community and relocating to a larger space, the Juneteenth celebration provided the people of Memphis with a celebration that was consistent with the mission of Robert R. Church: a mission of inclusiveness that we should all strive for as we continue to serve the people of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time to commemorate the end of slavery in America and to recognize the many contributions of African-American citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in observing our nation's 149th anniversary of Juneteenth and the 21st annual celebration in Memphis.

HONORING TOWN OF JONESTOWN, MISSISSIPPI

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Jonestown, Mississippi.

The Town of Jonestown, Mississippi elected its first black Mayor, James A. Shanks, in June 1973. During these times, the struggle for freedom was very high, especially in the South. Mayor Shanks took advantage of available opportunities from federal, state and local resources. He partnered with organizations like the National Conference of Black Mayors and Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors.

Additionally, Aaron E. Henry and other civil rights activists provided valuable assistance to Jonestown. Mayor Shanks and the Board of Aldermen, enhanced the community through housing, water and sewer projects, recreational facilities, and to improve the lives of the citizens. Mayor Shanks served a total of 12 non-consecutive years as mayor.

In June 1980 Jimmy Wilkins was elected Mayor and continued moving Jonestown for-

ward through excellent programs made by his predecessor. A modern fire station, a new fire truck and water and sewer projects were completed, upgraded housing complexes and new single family housing during Mayor Wilkins' tenure. Mayor Wilkins served eight non-consecutive years (1981-1985 and 1993-1997).

In 1989, Bobbie Walker became, the first female elected Mayor of Jonestown. In addition to ongoing projects, Mayor Walker increased community development by utilizing college volunteers, working with Habitat for Humanity and the Sisters of the Holy Name, whose members reside in Jonestown. They provide a cadre of services to citizens through education, medical contact, and recreation.

In June 1997, Joe W. Phillips was elected Mayor of Jonestown. He emphasized a sense of community and urged the people of Jonestown to be proud of their community. Mayor Phillips continued to enhance the Town of Jonestown during his two non-consecutive terms in office.

Patrick Leon Campbell was the youngest black Mayor elected to office in Jonestown and the State of Mississippi at age 28 in 2001.

He was instrumental in numerous revitalization projects via grants such as the Mississippi Historic Preservation Grant, Small Town Limited Municipality Grant, Planning Grant, Water & Sewer Grant, Public Safety Grant, Home Grant, and others. Mayor Campbell initiated the Jonestown High School scholarship fund, and reinstated the Annual Jonestown Day Celebration which brings many former citizens and tourists to town. In June of 2013 Mayor Campbell was re-elected Mayor of Jonestown and with eagerness sought out numerous economic development opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Town for their dedication to their community and change.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2014*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games. I am proud to say that the 2014 USA Games are being held throughout the state of New Jersey this week.

I especially want to honor the Special Olympics New Jersey Staff and Board of Directors, the athletes who demonstrate a true commitment to sport, the families that support them, and the volunteers and sponsors. They are all extraordinary citizens of this great state who demonstrate true "Genuine Jersey Pride" in the spirit of inclusive sports play.

Team New Jersey is made up of 269 athletes and 73 coaches, representing every county in our state, the largest delegation from New Jersey in the history of the Games.

The Special Olympics was established by President John F. Kennedy's sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, and is the world's largest organization dedicated to developing and enhancing the talents and abilities of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Her support for people with intellectual disabilities